

Application No. 09/832,509
Amendment dated June 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 19, 2004

Remarks

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Original claims 1-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; new claims 15-33 have been added; such that claims 15-33 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner:

required restriction to one of two asserted claimed inventions;

rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP404088496 ("the '496 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,756,977 ("Biss"); and

rejected claims 9, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '496 patent in view of Biss and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,954,576 ("Coulter").

1. Restriction Requirement.

A provisional election was made during a telephone conversation with the Examiner on February 12, 2004 to prosecute the invention identified by the Examiner as corresponding to claims 1-9, 13, and 14. The provisional election is hereby affirmed.

2. Original Claims Canceled, New Claims Added.

Originally-filed claims 1-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 15-33 have been added claiming what the Applicant asserts to be novel and non-obvious features of the present invention and which avoid the prior art cited by the Examiner in rejecting the originally filed claims. More specifically, new claim 15 is narrower than originally-filed claim 1 in that it includes the limitation that the inventory record is updated automatically and based on a number of removed coins determined automatically by weight. The remaining new independent claims include this feature and others as well. More specifically, claims 17 and 22 include limitations relating to using a used cash drawer or used coin canister in conjunction with the coin inventory to construct the new cash drawer, and claim 27 includes limitations relating to constructing the new cash drawer in such a manner as to simultaneously balance the used cash drawer. The Applicant believes that claim 27 comports with the restriction requirement because it does not claim

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the process of balancing the used cash drawer separately from the process of constructing the new cash drawer, but rather as a corollary to it. Also, dependent claims 16, 18, 23-25, and 29-31 include limitations relating to approximating the actual revenue provided in the new cash drawer, support for which is found on pages 18-19 of the specification.

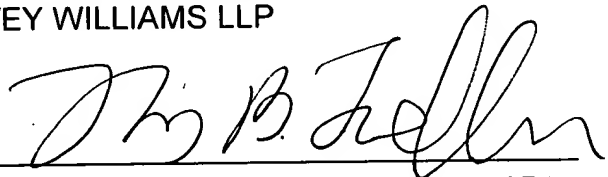
3. Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims currently pending in the application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a corresponding Notice of Allowance.

In the event of any questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at 1-800-445-3460. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully Submitted,
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By



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